

Remarks

This preliminary amendment is being filed in conjunction with the entry into the U.S. National Phase of PCT application PCT/US2004/018962, which included claims 1-53.

By way of this preliminary amendment, claims 7, 10, 12-13, 18, 30-34, 37 and 39-51 have been canceled, claims 1-6, 8, 11, 14-17, 19-29, 35-36 and 38 have been amended and new claim 54 has been added.

Upon entry of this preliminary amendment, claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, 14-17, 19-29, 35-36, 38 and 52-54 will be pending.


Support for the amendments is found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

The specification has been amended to incorporate a paragraph regarding cross-referencing the chain of priority.

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, 14-17, 19-29, 35-36, 38 and 52-54 are in condition for allowance. An early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted

COZEN O'CONNOR

By: 

Mark DeLuca (Reg. No. 33,229)
Cozen O'Connor
1900 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 665-5592

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